



BUDGET WEEK

Committee on the Budget • Majority Caucus
U.S. House of Representatives
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Summarizing budgetary issues in legislation
scheduled for the House floor

24 July 2006

Week of 24 July 2006

SUSPENSION CALENDAR

1) ***To Provide for Certain Lands to be Held in Trust for the Utu Utu Gwaitu Paiute Tribe*** (H.R. 854) 

This bill directs the Secretary of the Interior to give approximately 240 acres of Federal land in California to the Benton Paiute Reservation, to be held in trust by the United States on behalf of the Utu Utu Gwaitu Paiute Tribe. According to the Department, the land to be conveyed currently generates no receipts from mineral leasing or other activities and is not expected to do so during the next 10 years. The Congressional Budget Office [CBO] estimates that conveying the land would not significantly affect offsetting receipts (a credit against direct spending, which is not subject to appropriations) and would have no significant impact on the Federal budget.

2) ***Musconetcong Wild and Scenic Rivers Act*** (H.R. 1307) 

This bill designates 24.2 miles of segments of the Musconetcong River in New Jersey as scenic and recreational rivers under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. The bill designates 4.3 additional miles of that river as a recreational river if the Secretary of the Interior finds sufficient local support for such a designation. This bill does not affect direct spending or revenue.

3) ***Cahaba River National Wildlife Refuge Expansion Act*** (H.R. 4947) 

This bill expands the boundary of the Cahaba River National Wildlife Refuge in Alabama to include an additional 3,600 acres. It also authorizes the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to acquire the added acreage by donation, purchase, or exchange. Enacting the bill does not affect direct spending or revenue.

4) ***To Authorize the Marion Park Project and Committee of the Palmetto Conservation Foundation to Establish a Commemorative Work on Federal Land in the District of Columbia, and its Environs, to Honor Brigadier General Francis Marion*** (H.R. 5057) 

This bill authorizes the Palmetto Conservation Foundation, a nonprofit organization, to establish a commemorative work honoring Brigadier General Francis Marion. This bill authorizes the establishment of the monument to the Revolutionary War hero on Federal lands in Washington, DC, subject to the requirements of the Commemorative Works Act [CWA] and without the use of Federal funds. CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 5057 would have no significant impact on the Federal budget.

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PLEASE NOTE: This document addresses budgetary issues only. It should not be taken to address support or opposition on any other grounds. A green flag indicates no serious budgetary or budget compliance concerns. A yellow flag indicates moderate or potential problems. A red flag indicates serious problems. **Also note:** Floor schedules and legislative details are subject to change after publication.

This document was prepared by the majority staff of the Committee on the Budget, U.S. House of Representatives. It has not been approved by the full committee and therefore may not reflect the views of all the committee's members.

5) ***Newlands Project Headquarters and Maintenance Yard Facility Transfer Act*** (S. 310). 

This bill conveys, to the Truckee-Carson Irrigation District in Nevada, the title and all rights and interests of the United States in approximately 37 acres of land. CBO estimates that implementing S. 310 would have no significant impact on the Federal budget because the Federal land to be conveyed currently generates no significant receipts and is not expected to do so over the next 10 years.

6) ***Central Idaho Economic Development and Recreation Act*** (H.R. 3603). 

This bill requires the conveyance of specified parcels of Federal land to the State of Idaho and certain counties and cities in central Idaho. It also designates specified parcels of federal land in central Idaho as wilderness areas to be managed as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System [NWPS]. An official cost estimate was not available, but enacting this bill is not expected to have an impact on the Federal budget.

7) ***Mount Hood Stewardship Legacy Act*** (H.R. 5025). 

This bill designates specified wilderness areas in Mount Hood National Forest (Mount Hood), OR, as wilderness and as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System. Along with other provisions, the bill authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to use funds received from the special account established by this Act to support recreation purposes related to Mount Hood and directs the Secretary to establish the Mount Hood National Forest Recreational Advisory Council. An official cost estimate was not available, but enacting this bill could increase direct spending by negligible amounts in fiscal year 2007 and by \$5 million over the fiscal year 2007-11 period.

8) ***A Concurrent Resolution Designating the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum in Kansas City, Missouri, as America's National Negro Leagues Baseball Museum*** (S.Con.Res. 60). 

This resolution has no budget implications.

9) ***Electronic Duck Stamp Act of 2005*** (S. 1496). 

This bill authorizes the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to conduct a 3-year pilot program to distribute Federal duck stamps electronically. CBO estimates that implementing the legislation would cost the Federal government \$750,000 over the next 3 years, assuming the availability of appropriated funds. Because S. 1496 would not change the current \$15 price of the Federal duck stamp, enacting the legislation would not affect revenue.

10) ***National Heritage Areas Act of 2005*** (S. 203). 

This bill requires the Secretary of Interior to conduct a study to determine the feasibility and suitability of establishing certain additional National Heritage Areas, and provides for their establishment. The bill provides temporary royalty relief for producers of sodium compounds and related products on Federal land. It lowers, to 2 percent for a 5-year period, the royalty rate on the quantity or gross value of the output of sodium compounds and related products at the point of shipment to market from Federal land. CBO estimates that enacting this legislation would increase direct spending by \$3 million in 2007 and by \$15 million over the following 5-year period. Although parts of this legislation were passed last year in H.R. 485, enacting the bill under the current budget resolution for fiscal year 2007, H.Con.Res. 376, would cause the Committee on Resources to exceed its allocation.

11) ***Valle Vidal Protection Act of 2005*** (H.R. 3817). 

This bill withdraws some Federal land in the Carson National Forest in New Mexico from certain programs to develop natural resources. Based on data received from the Forest Service, CBO estimates that the land is not currently expected to generate income from such activities and that any net change in direct spending under H.R. 3817 would be insignificant in any of the next 10 years. Enacting H.R. 3817 does not affect revenue.

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12) ***Blunt Reservoir and Pierre Canal Land Conveyance Act of 2005*** (H.R. 4301). 

This bill would direct the Secretary of the Interior to transfer title to the lands and facilities that make up the nonpreferential lease parcels and unleased parcels of the Blunt Reservoir and Pierre Canal in South Dakota to the State. During the 5 years following enactment, H.R. 4301 would allow any preferential leaseholder to purchase the parcel that is the subject of their lease for cash or on an installment basis, and thereafter any remaining parcels would be transferred to South Dakota. An official cost estimate was not available, but enacting this bill could increase direct spending by negligible amounts in fiscal year 2007 due to subsidy costs for loans.

13) ***Northern California Coastal Wild Heritage Wilderness Act*** (H.R. 233). 

This bill designates specified areas in Mendocino and Six Rivers National Forests and in Humboldt, Lake, Mendocino, and Napa Counties in the State of California as wilderness areas and as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System. In addition, it designates certain public land in the State administered by the Bureau of Land Management generally known as the South Fork Eel River Wilderness Area and Elkhorn Ridge Potential Wilderness as a potential wilderness area. An official cost estimate was not available, but enacting this bill is not expected to have an impact on the Federal budget.

14) ***To Establish a Grant Program Whereby Moneys Collected from Violations of the Corporate Average Fuel Economy Program are Used to Expand Infrastructure Necessary to Increase the Availability of Alternative Fuels*** (H.R. 5534). 

This bill would allow the Department of Energy to use the monies collected from violations for a grant program to support the installation of equipment at gas stations for the delivery of alternative motor fuels. CBO estimates the fines that would be directed to the proposed grant program fund would total \$25 million annually, subject to appropriations.

15) ***Recognizing the Dedication of the Employees at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Michoud Assembly Facility, the "Michoud Hurricane Ride-Out Team," Who Risked Their Lives During Hurricane Katrina's Assault on Southeast Louisiana, and Kept the Generators and Pumps Running to Protect the Facilities and Flight Hardware, and Whose Dedication Kept the Michoud Assembly Facility an Island of Dry Land, which Made it Possible to Resume External Tank Production Less than 5 Weeks After the Storm Passed*** (H.Res. 892). 

This resolution has no budget implications.

16) ***Veteran-Owned Small Business Promotion Act of 2005*** (H.R. 3082). 

This bill makes changes to several programs for veterans, primarily for veterans' employment and training benefits and veterans' burial benefits. CBO estimates that implementing this bill would cost \$1 million in 2007 and \$22 million over the 2007-11 period, assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts and would increase direct spending for veterans programs by less than \$500,000 in 2007 and by \$2 million over the 2007-16 period.

17) ***Honoring the National Association of State Veterans Homes and the 119 State Veterans Homes Providing Long-Term Care to Veterans that are Represented by that Association for Their Contributions to the Health Care of Veterans and the Health-Care System of the Nation*** (H.Con.Res. 347). 

This resolution has no budget implications.

18) ***Expressing Support for the Designation and Goals of "Hire a Veteran Week" and Encouraging the President to Issue a Proclamation Supporting those Goals*** (H.Con.Res. 125). 

This resolution has no budget implications.

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19) ***Improving Outcomes for Children Affected by Meth Act of 2006*** (S. 3525). 

This bill reauthorizes various child welfare programs and directs funding to assist families affected by methamphetamine abuse and addiction. The bill increases discretionary authorizations by an estimated \$1.1 billion over the 2007-11 period, and – assuming the appropriation of the authorized amounts – would result in additional outlays of \$800 million over the same period. Certain child welfare programs categorized as direct spending also would be reauthorized by the bill. As required by the Deficit Control Act, the costs of extending those mandatory programs – \$1.4 billion over the 2007-11 period – are already included in CBO’s baseline. Therefore, enacting S. 3525 would not result in an estimated change in direct spending relative to those baseline projections.

20) ***FHA Manufactured Housing Loan Modernization Act of 2006*** (H.R. 4804). 

This bill amends the Federal Housing Administration’s [FHA’s] loan guarantee program for manufactured housing and requires FHA to insure such loans on an individual basis, raise the maximum loan limits, charge premiums necessary to maintain a negative credit subsidy (as estimated under the Federal Credit Reform Act) for the loan guarantees, and make other administrative changes to the program. Implementing the manufactured housing loan program, like all of FHA’s insurance programs, is contingent on the enactment of appropriation laws that provide annual commitment authority. This bill does not affect direct spending or revenue.

21) ***Promoting Transparency in Financial Reporting Act of 2006*** (H.R. 5024). 

This bill requires the chairpersons of the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Financial Accounting Standards Board, and the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board, or their designees, to testify before the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives on their respective efforts to reduce the complexity of and increase the transparency of public companies’ financial reporting documents. The bill requires annual oral testimony in 2007 and in each of the following 5 years. CBO estimates that implementing the bill would have no significant impact on the Federal budget and would not affect direct spending or revenue.

22) ***Export-Import Bank Reauthorization Act of 2006*** (H.R. 5068). 

This bill extends the authority of the Export-Import Bank of the United States [Eximbank] to enter into new direct loan obligations and new guaranteed loan commitments through 2011. The bill also expands the use of the Tied Aid Credit Program. CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 5068 would have a net cost of \$35 million in 2007 and about \$450 million over the 2007-11 period, assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts. Additionally, CBO estimates that enacting the bill will increase outlays of direct spending by \$5 million in 2007, \$45 million over the 2007-11 period, and \$95 million over the 2007-16 period. Although enacting this bill does not violate the Congressional Budget Act, it does increase the deficit in the 5-year period covered by the budget resolution. It does so by accelerating outlays that otherwise would be spent later – so over time it would likely be budget neutral.

23) ***Expanding American Homeownership Act of 2006*** (H.R. 5121). 

This bill amends the National Housing Act to provide the Federal Housing Administration [FHA] with new authority to offer guarantees for various types of loans within a new pricing structure. The bill is aimed at updating FHA’s business operations so that it could more effectively manage its credit risks and expand homeownership opportunities. Enacting the bill does not affect direct spending or revenue.

24) ***To Amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to Enhance Emergency Communications at the Department of Homeland Security*** (H.R. 5852). 

This bill amends the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to provide for an Office of Emergency Communications to enhance emergency communications and for other purposes. It requires the Secretary

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of Homeland Security, acting through the Assistant Secretary for Emergency Communications, to develop a National Emergency Communications Report to provide recommendations regarding how the United States can accelerate the deployment of interoperable emergency communications nationwide. An official cost estimate was not available, but enacting this bill is not expected to increase direct spending or reduce revenue.

25) ***Recognizing and Honoring the 100th Anniversary of the Founding of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated, the First Intercollegiate Greek-letter Fraternity Established for African Americans*** (H.Con.Res. 384). 

This resolution has no budget implications.

26) ***Railroad Retirement Technical Improvement Act of 2006*** (H.R. 5074). 
The Railroad Retirement Act of 1974 requires the Railroad Retirement Board [RRB] to use a nongovernmental financial institution to serve as the disbursing agent for railroad retirement payments to retirees and survivors. This bill eliminates that requirement and permits the RRB to continue to use the Department of Treasury as its disbursing agent for those payments. The bill does not affect either direct spending or revenue.

27) ***Disaster Recovery Personal Protection Act of 2006*** (H.R. 5013). 
This bill amends the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to prohibit Federal employees, any entities (including State and local governments) that receive Federal assistance, and other relief workers from confiscating, requiring the registration of, or prohibiting possession of firearms during a disaster or an emergency if those firearms are legally possessed under current federal or state laws. CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 5013 would have no significant impact on the Federal budget. Enacting H.R. 5013 does not affect direct spending or revenue.

28) ***Expressing the Sense of Congress in Support of a National Bike Month and in Appreciation of Cyclists and Others for Promoting Bicycle Safety and the Benefits of Cycling*** (H.Con.Res. 145). 

This resolution has no budget implications.

29) ***To Amend the John F. Kennedy Center Act to Authorize Additional Appropriations for the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts for Fiscal Year 2007*** (H.R. 5187). 

This bill amends the John F. Kennedy Center Act by increasing authorizations for fiscal year 2007 for operations and maintenance and for capital projects at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. Enacting the bill does not affect direct spending or revenue.

30) ***Expressing the Sense of the Congress that States Should Require Candidates for Driver's Licenses to Demonstrate an Ability to Exercise Greatly Increased Caution When Driving in the Proximity of a Potentially Visually Impaired Individual*** (H.Con.Res. 235). 

This resolution has no budget implications.

31) ***Commemorating the 60th Anniversary of the Historic 1946 Season of Major League Baseball Hall of Fame Member Bob Feller and His Return from Military Service to the United States*** (H.Con.Res. 449). 

This resolution has no budget implications.

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LEGISLATION CONSIDERED UNDER A RULE

- Bill:** *Business Activity Tax Simplification Act of 2006* (H.R. 1956). 
- Committee:** Judiciary
- Summary:** This bill prohibits State and local governments from taxing certain business activities that are currently taxable. Specifically, it prohibits taxing certain services, intangible goods, media activities, and some financial activities unless businesses have a “substantial physical presence”—as defined in the bill—in a jurisdiction.
- Cost:** Prohibiting these State and local taxes reduces the amounts the taxpayers can deduct from their Federal taxes. Consequently, CBO estimates, enacting H.R. 1956 would increase Federal revenue by \$106 million in 2007, by \$1.2 billion over the 2007-11 period, and by \$3.1 billion over the 2007-2016 period. By prohibiting State and local governments from taxing certain business activities, H.R. 1956 would impose an intergovernmental mandate as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act. CBO estimates that the costs – in the form of forgone revenues – to State and local governments would exceed \$1 billion in the first full year after enactment and would likely grow to about \$3 billion, annually, by 2011. These costs would exceed the threshold established in UMRA for intergovernmental mandates (\$64 million in 2006, adjusted annually for inflation).
- Budget Act:** This bill does not violate title III of the Congressional Budget Act, but may have implications under section 425 which prohibits consideration of any bill that increases the direct costs of Federal intergovernmental mandates in excess of the UMRA threshold.
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- Bill:** *United States and India Nuclear Cooperation Promotion Act of 2006* (H.R. 5682). 
- Committee:** International Relations
- Summary:** H.R. 5682 would exempt India from the current-law prohibition on the transfer of nuclear materials and technology to countries that are not signatories to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. Under this bill, the United States could transfer nuclear material and technology to India, subject to an agreement between the two countries, if the President certifies that India meets certain conditions.
- Cost:** CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 5682 would not have a significant impact on the Federal budget.
- Budget Act:** This bill does not violate the Congressional Budget Act.
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- Bill:** *Government Efficiency Act of 2006* (H.R. 5766). 
- Committee:** Government Reform
- Summary:** This bill establishes a Federal Review Commissions to review and make recommendations on improving the operations, effectiveness, and efficiency of Federal programs and agencies, and to require a schedule for such reviews of all Federal agencies and programs. It allows the President to submit to Congress a proposal for implementing proposed changes and provides for expedited consideration of such proposal. The bill requires that any reduction in amounts of discretionary budget authority or direct spending resulting from enactment of legislation pursuant to this Act shall be dedicated only to deficit reduction and shall not be used as an offset for other spending increases.

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Cost: An official cost estimate was not available, but enacting this bill is not expected to increase direct spending or reduce revenue.

Budget Act: Enacting this bill will not violate the Congressional Budget Act.

Bill: *Abolishment of Obsolete Agencies and Federal Sunset Act of 2005* (H.R. 3282). 

Committee: Government Reform

Summary: This bill establishes the Federal Agency Sunset Commission to submit annually to Congress and the President a report containing an evaluation of each agency and a draft of legislation to carry out the recommendations of the Commission for their abolishment or reorganization. It requires the abolishment of any agency within 1 year of the Commission's review, unless the agency is reauthorized by Congress. It authorizes the deadline for abolishing an agency to be extended for an additional 2 years by legislation enacted by a super majority of the House of Representatives and the Senate. In addition, this bill directs the Comptroller General and the Director of the Congressional Budget Office, in cooperation with the Director of the Congressional Research Service, to prepare an inventory of Federal programs within each agency for the purpose of advising and assisting Congress and the Commission in carrying out the requirements of this Act.

Cost: An official cost estimate was not available, but enacting this bill is not expected to increase direct spending or reduce revenues.

Budget Act: Enacting this bill will not violate the Congressional Budget Act.

Prepared by **The Committee on the Budget**